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Harford Retrofit Update

In our last issue, we chronicled the start of the construction of the Harford Waste-to-Energy Facility air pollution control retrofit. Since then, significant progress has been made. As you can see from the pictures, steel has arrived on-site and is being installed at a rapid pace by Stellar and its subcontractors. The construction is still on schedule, with the completion, startup and testing of the new air pollution control equipment expected before November of this year.

The first picture shows the bottom portion of the acid gas scrubber and the baghouse particulate removal equipment. The assembly of scrubber sections will continue on the ground and then be lifted into place using a very large crane. The scrubber, when complete, will stand over one hundred feet tall and will be the tallest piece of equipment on site. The scrubber will remove between 75 – 95% of the acid gasses that result from the combustion of the waste at the facility.

The support steel for the carbon injection building is being installed (picture 2). The carbon is injected into the flue gas stream prior to the acid gas scrubber. The carbon binds mercury and dioxins so that these pollutants cannot escape into the atmosphere. Then as the flue gas continues to travel through the baghouse, the carbon particles are removed from the gas stream.

continued on page 2



Scrubber Support and bottom section of Scrubber with the baghouse equipment in the background.



Carbon injection building support steel.

JUNE
8/9
2005

Calendar Notice

Join Maryland Recyclers Coalition/Mid-Atlantic Chapter
of Solid Waste Association of North America Conference
Community College of Baltimore
Keynote Speaker Robin Davidow
Registration and information 443-640-1050

The third picture shows the induced draft fans, motors and duct support steel that have been installed. The induced draft fans help to move the flue gas through the air pollution control system. The facility will have three fans, two of which will be running at any given time, and one spare. Also in this picture are the wooden forms that are used to pour concrete foundations. One of the last major foundations poured was for the continuous emission

monitoring building. This building will come preassembled from the factory and will include sensitive equipment that continuously monitors the flue gas leaving the facility. The emission readings will be used for better control of the pollution control equipment. In addition to the readouts available on site, the Maryland Department of the Environment will be able to review the emissions on a real-time basis from their offices to check for compliance.



Induced draft fans and motors as well as support steel for the flue gas ducts. In the foreground, the remaining major foundations are being poured for the continuous emission monitoring equipment.

Where Does Methane Come From?

Methane is emitted from a variety of both human-related (anthropogenic) and natural sources. Human-related activities include fossil fuel production, animal husbandry (enteric fermentation in livestock and manure management), rice cultivation, biomass burning, and waste management. These activities release significant quantities of methane to the atmosphere. It is estimated that 60% of global methane emissions are associated with human-related activities (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2001). Natural sources of methane include wetlands, gas hydrates, permafrost, termites, oceans, freshwater bodies, non-wetland soils, wildfires and other sources. Methane emission levels from a source can vary significantly from

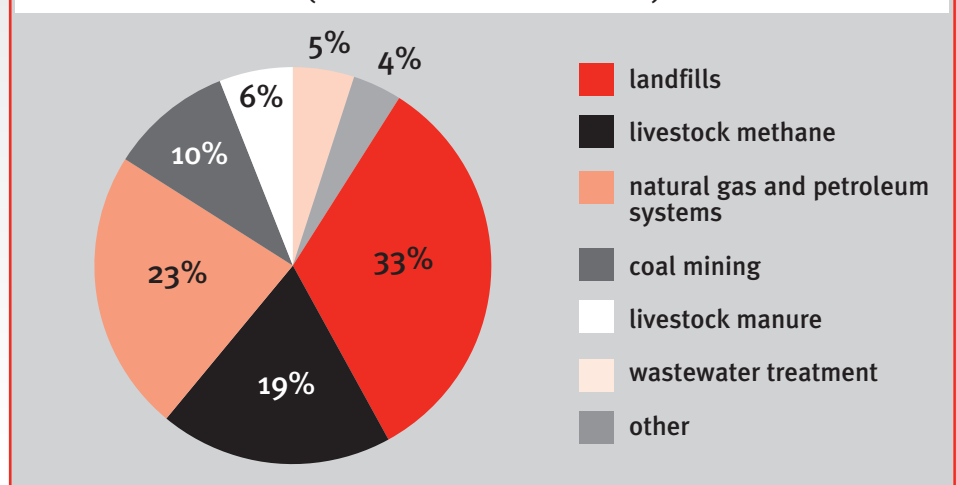
one country or region to another, depending on many factors such as climate, industrial and agricultural production characteristics, energy types and usage, and waste management practices. For example, temperature and moisture have a significant effect on the anaerobic digestion process, one of the key biological processes that cause methane emissions in both human-related and natural sources. Also, the implementation of technologies to capture and utilize methane from sources such as landfills, coal mines and manure management systems affects the emission levels from these sources.

Emission inventories are prepared to determine the contribution from

different sources. For information on international methane emissions from man-made sources, visit the International Analysis section of the EPA web site (<http://www.epa.gov/methane/intl-analyses.html>).

In the United States, the largest methane emissions come from the decomposition of wastes in landfills, ruminant digestion and manure management associated with domestic livestock, natural gas and oil systems, and coal mining. The pie-chart below shows the contribution of the major human-related sources to methane emissions in the United States in 2001.

Human-related Sources of Methane in the US
(% of total methane emissions)



Source: US Emissions Inventory
2003; Inventory of US Greenhouse
Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2001

SWANA

ROAD-E-O WINNERS 2005

On April 29 competitors from the Mid-Atlantic, Keystone and New Jersey chapters of SWANA kicked off this year's ROAD-E-O, a competition for drivers and equipment operators to demonstrate their skills, at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority's Environmental Park in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. The event was a great success, with many contestants competing for prizes in the

equipment and truck competitions. The member jurisdictions of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority were well-represented, with winners from Anne Arundel, Baltimore, and Harford Counties. Anthony Prada of Anne Arundel County won the overall high score in the Truck Competition, and Charles Farmer of Baltimore County won the overall high score in the equip-

ment competition. All first and second place winners are eligible to compete at the national competition in Hickory, NC in October.

Congratulations to all the winners on their success! (For full results coverage, please see the SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Newsletter, May 2005, at www.swana-midatl.org.)

ROAD-E-O WINNERS!



A front-end loader maneuvers its way around the equipment obstacle course.

Truck Course

Trash Truck – Rear Loader

1st Place – Michael Barnes, Anne Arundel County, Maryland

Roll-Off

1st Place – Anthony Prada, Anne Arundel County

2nd Place – Michael Barnes, Anne Arundel County

Equipment Course

Loader

1st Place – Charles Farmer, Baltimore County

3rd Place – Daniel Griffith, Harford County

Compactor

2nd Place – Michael Barnes, Anne Arundel County

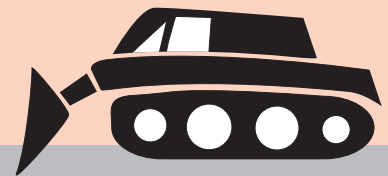
Dozer

1st Place – Daryl Dietle, Baltimore County

Articulated Truck

1st Place – Charles Farmer, Baltimore County

3rd Place – Alex Patel, Baltimore County



Illegal Transfer Stations Appearing on Railroads

A growing trend has started in the Northeast involving the placement of solid waste transfer stations next to railroads in order to circumvent environmental regulations and local/state permitting requirements that would typically be required for these types of facilities.

With the 1995 enactment of the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act (ICCTA), the Surface Transportation Board (STB) was given jurisdiction over transportation by rail carriers, including "facilities integral to transportation and the construction, attainment, operation, abandonment, or discontinuance of tracks... even if the tracks are located, or intended to be located entirely in one state."

While the ICCTA preempts the states' authority to permit a transfer facility owned and operated by a rail carrier and used for transferring shipments of solid waste to or from rail, it does not preempt the role state and local government agencies play in enforcing federal, state, and local environmental laws.

There are projects operating or in development throughout the country where there are solid waste facilities on side rails that are protected under the umbrella of the STB's exclusive jurisdiction. These facilities are exempt from nearly all substantive environmental

requirements imposed by state and local government.

STB does not provide local oversight, leaving regulatory holes for rail-related operations. Most solid waste facilities are subject to significant protective state and local environmental controls.

local regulations. But waste haulers have taken advantage of the current regulatory environment to establish facilities in highly regulated areas like New York and New Jersey (there are sites pending in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, as well) by applying directly to the rail carriers.



Today, there are four illegal waste transfer stations in operation and two more stations under construction. These facilities have arrived without permits, public hearings or zoning approvals and are moving solid waste with little or no oversight. In addition, New England Transrail, LLC in Wilmington, MA has been seeking to restore its tracks and build transfer stations that operate 24/7 with the potential of receiving up to 400 trucks a day.

There is a fear among local officials that more of these stations might be built, resulting in a threat to public health. State, county and local officials around the country have

promised to coordinate their efforts to cease the proliferation of unregulated solid waste transfer stations along the railroad. Officials are working to move on several fronts in a coordinated, multi-agency approach. Groups have been reaching out to state and federal lawmakers to change the rules associated with this problem.

These sites have become subject to very limited federal controls due to the EPA's deference to the states on regulation matters. Because they are responsible for protecting public health and the environment, state and local municipalities want land use and planning oversight, so solid waste facilities would not be exempt from abiding by state and



REIT Wins Recycling Award

Matt Muller of REIT Research and Management accepts recycling award for participating in Baltimore City's commercial paper recycling service. REIT provides 94 gallon carts to the tenants at 100 South Charles. Once a week, the REIT staff collects the full carts and places them behind the building. A City truck collects the paper and takes it to the City's transfer station, where it is transferred to a paper processor. REIT avoids waste disposal costs and the City earns revenues from the sale of paper. Call or e-mail the Authority for more information on this program.

Frederick County Waste Transfer and Disposal Contract Awarded

In November of 2004 Frederick County requested that the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority assist in the procurement of multi-year solid waste transfer, recycling and disposal services for the County. The active cell in the County Landfill at 9031 Reich's Ford Road was reaching capacity, and the County needed to procure off-site waste disposal services. Transfer of waste will begin at the working face until the Transfer Station at the Landfill is completed. The procurement obtained prices for the company or the County operating the Transfer Station. Proposers were requested to outline a recycling program for the recyclable portion of the solid waste received.

On December 14, 2004, the Authority issued a notice of availability of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for waste transfer, recycling and disposal services. The Authority advertised the RFP in local and national publications as well as the

Authority website. Thirty companies requested the RFP. A Pre-Proposal Conference and tour of the facility were conducted on December 21, 2004.

Qualified proposals were received from two firms. The evaluation committee, which included the Authority's Executive Director and staff as well as staff from the Frederick County Division of Utilities and Solid Waste, reviewed the proposals and exceptions taken to the service agreements from each proposing firm. A Net Present Value (NPV) comparison was made of the offered service prices as a part of the review. Separate simultaneous negotiations were conducted with the qualified proposers in an effort to finalize a service agreement. Final and Best Offers were requested from each firm for the transfer, recycling and disposal of the waste.

After the Final and Best Offers were received, the evaluation committee

reviewed the new submissions and performed another NPV evaluation of the final offered service prices. A recommendation was prepared for the Authority Board and the Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County. Waste Management Inc. of Maryland was awarded the service contract for the project. Michael Marschner, Director, Division of Utilities, told the Frederick County Commissioners that the Authority had been helpful in getting the contract procured and awarded.

The six-year contract, with four option years, will provide Frederick County with ten years of waste transfer services. This transfer of waste will aid the County in the preservation of landfill space while managing the increase in waste associated with population growth. Waste Management will actively recycle a portion of the incoming waste and provide a credit to the County for each ton recycled.

MDRecycles.org Gets Major Makeover



Authority staff members have been working with the Authority's new marketing, public education and communications consulting firm, Pinnacle Communications Resource Company, to revise the format for the MDRecycles.org website. This business-to-business website has been hosted by the Authority since 1999, and while the site has undergone numerous enhancements over the years, this is its first major overhaul. We would like to thank everyone who previewed the site with us and offered comments on how to make the site even better!

The thrust of the new design is to make the case for recycling even more compelling and to make the site easier to navigate. We have added a new Homeowners section for people who

want to learn more about domestic recycling activities such as grasscycling. We are now working on the next phase of the update – checking the data in the recycling directory. This should be accomplished by the time this edition of WasteWatch is printed. Please visit



MDRecycles.org and let us know if you see anything that needs to be changed, added or deleted. You can send your

comments through the "Contact Us" section of the website or send an e-mail to Shirl Wright (swright@nmwda.org).

To ensure that businesses looking for the site can find it easily, in addition to MDRecycles.org, we have acquired the domain names mdrecycles.com, marylandrecycles.org and marylandrecycles.com. The new design preserves the link from the MDRecycles home page to NMWDA.org. (To see the link, go to MDRecycles.org, click on "Resources" → "Contacts" → "State and Regional.") We are tracking visits to the website and will be able to measure the results of our media campaign to educate people about the availability and usefulness of the site. The ultimate goal is to increase commercial recycling in Maryland.

Authority Launches Multimedia Communication Campaign

Using a combination of public relations, public service announcements, radio, print and transit advertising, the Authority recently kicked off a B2B campaign designed to promote recycling and drive traffic to the new MDRecycles.org website. The campaign, created by the Authority's marketing team at Pinnacle Communications, leverages humor and a direct appeal to bottom-line thinking to convince corporate waste management folks that "doing good" and "doing good

business" aren't mutually exclusive concepts.

"People know that recycling is the right thing to do; but there's a perception that it's a lot of work," says Pinnacle President and Creative Director Tracey Haldeman. "Our job, both with the website and the ad campaign, was to demonstrate that the extra work involved in recycling and eCycling wasn't just an expression of good citizenship – it made good business sense, too."

**Just because you're
throwing it out doesn't
make it trash.**

eCycling

**Visit MDRecycles.org
and find out how.**

On MDRecycles.org, you'll find everything you need to know about reducing the amount of stuff you throw away and increasing the amount of stuff you recycle – plus an easy-to-use directory of recyclers of everything from asphalt shingles to zip-lock bags, and contacts for local, state and federal resources. So log on today and find out why recycling isn't just doing good – it's doing good business.

**Don't just throw it out –
recycle.**
find out how at
mdrecycles.org

transit display

print ad



WASTEWATCH

Tower II – Suite 402, 100 S. Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2705
(410) 333-2730 / FAX: (410) 333-2721
E-mail: authority@nmwda.org
Website: www.nmwda.org

WasteWatch is published quarterly by the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, an independent agency of the State of Maryland governed by its Member jurisdictions – Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Harford County, Howard County and Montgomery County.

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